

# REVOLUTION

ISSUE 49

socialist youth movement • 20p

phone 07951 493 232



# REVOLUTION

## begins



# Argentina



# REVOLUTION CALENDAR

LONDON

Revolution Stall and meeting in Camden Every Sunday outside the Tube station From 2:00pm

## CANCEL ARGENTINA'S DEBT

12 noon Saturday, Feb 2 - PROTEST @ WORLD BANK OFFICES New Zealand House, Haymarket SW1 (nearest tube piccadilly circus) called by the Argentina Solidarity Network 07960 398 152  
argentesolidarity@hotmail.com

## NEW YORK

### NYC Protests Planned Against World Economic Forum

Over 1,000 of the world's corporate leaders, along with top political and media representatives, will meet behind closed doors in New York City from January 31 to February 4 at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting. Meanwhile thousands of students, union members and activists plan to protest in what is expected to be the largest American anti-corporate globalization demonstration post September 11. Anti-capitalist protesters from across the US and many other countries will converge to raise their voices against the corporate and government elite gathering at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Revolution will have its own shit hot reporter in New York for the protest. So check out the web site for up-to-date info.

## MUNICH

No justice, no peace...

A Nato conference is being held in Munich, Germany at the Star of February.

This gathering of EU- and NATO-representatives is trying to make the public believe that the main topic of this conference is the keeping of peace in the whole world and international security. The opposite is true: They are planning the next war!

Behind the closed doors of the noble hotel "Bayerischer Hof" - secluded from the public - they are designing new pictures of potential "enemies" and forging plans for future military intervention just like in Afghanistan.

They are not talking about security, but about new effective mobile intervention forces, further armament programs and the positioning of modern high-tech-weapons in space.

The US and European capitalists, and their governments see themselves as the "rulers of the world". They claim to have the right to "unhindered access to all markets and resources all over the world". The USA, Germany and the EU are determined to enforce their economic interests with military force, if necessary, against the rest of the world, either with the NATO or in or on their own.

A massive protest is going to be held on Feb 1st and 2nd. Revolution members from Germany and Austria have been building for the demo and are expecting the police to crack down heavily on the demonstrations.

Reports of the actions will be posted to  
www.worldrevoluition.org.uk.

Email us with up coming events

# Room 101: RANT ON THE Music Biz

by Justin in kingsland

Fuck Popstars, Fuck Pop idol! To be honest I don't really give a toss about how good some brain dead wannabes can sing a ABBA song and I certainly don't want to listen to a load of trumped up Knobend judges tell them what they did wrong.

Music isn't just about the money and record sales, it's a way of life! We walk, breathe and eat it we make friends with people purely on the basis of their music tastes (well, I do).

That's the problem though, because big business has caught on to this and is trying to make us pay for it.

You can't escape it because it's everywhere you look in magazines, papers, on television and billboards to name a few. It comes in various forms, whether it's ads for the shows or the videos or the dolls or the TV program special where Robbie f-ing Williams dresses like it's 1950 and sings Sinatra.

It really shouldn't bother me that much

because I don't like pop music and if don't want to see it or read it I can turn over or turn off, but its gone further than just Pop.

The Alternative scene is slowly being taken over too, prices for gigs have doubled at least for the major venues and bands, the magazines (NME Kerrang etc) have almost doubled their prices in the space of a few years.

CDs as well have rocketed in price especially in the UK where there's a price fixing investigation going on. I can't avoid these things like I can with pop and that is what's getting me really pissed off.

Thank god for the internet and MP3's. Record companies are running scared about them, and they may have closed down Napster but that was a bit crap anyway and there's about 20 other places on the net you can get MP3's from now.

So at least that's one thing I can be cheery about.

# THE MONSTER IN OUR MIDST.

by simon in Wilsden

When we think of politics, we think of debating chambers, bills, laws, amendments, chambers of the house, complex political arguments about this or that. We imagine white, middle-aged rich men and women (though usually just men) in suits sitting on plush benches and talking for half an hour about something that they know nothing about and which will never effect their lives. Politics is all talk, right? And all that political parties do is talk, yes? Wrong. There are political parties in Britain today that use violence, murder, hatred, lies and bigotry and racism to get what they want. These are the parties of the far right, the nazi parties of Britain, the BNP (British National Party) and the NF (National Front).

The Nazi parties are making big gains, the biggest since the 1970s when they stood candidates in over three hundred seats in the general election. Thanks to the anti-fascist efforts of the left they polled only 1.3% of the vote, but it could so easily have gone the other way. Whenever I talk to people about the dangers of fascism I am usually told that they will never be popular or they will never have mass support in Britain. The usual reason for this is because it would be un-British to be fascist.

But these monsters have a way of creeping up on you. They got 23% of the vote in a ward of a council by-election at the end of last year, 16.4% in the general election in Oldham west, 11% in Oldham east, 11% in Burnley, and saved their deposits (they got over 5% of the vote in other areas).

The only reason why the Nazis have never gained a real political voice in Britain is because of the work done by the anti-fascist left. There have been confrontations in Lewisham, Brixton, Southall, and every month there are demonstrations and counter-demonstrations against the NF and BNP marching. Wherever the monster rears its ugly head is where people come together to stop it.

The council elections are coming up, and the BNP looks like it could win council seats. This means that Nazis will be allocating funding, and making political decisions for thousands of people in each borough. The last time a Nazi was elected was to the Isle of Dogs in 1993, and after that racist attacks soared by 300% in that area. Black, Asian and white youth must join together to stop this Nazi menace, because fascism is a real and present danger to all of our lives in the 21st century.



Dear Revo

The press has been having a right go at the left and the anti-capitalist movement. Rupert Murdoch's *Times* has been running a witch-hunt against the *Socialist Alliance* and militants involved in the South West Trains strike. The *Guardian* ran three pages on "Did the left lose the war?"

We all know the press's agenda, but at least this coverage gives us a chance to speak out to thousands of readers. What a pity therefore that Guy Taylor, self-appointed spokesperson for Globalise Resistance blew his chance by attacking the left!

Guy told a journalist in the *Guardian* that political violence

"achieves very little". Pardon? The Argentinian people looted food from supermarkets, liberated bank accounts and fought off the riot cops to make sure families could be fed and in the process got rid of five presidents in little over a week. If this had happened in Britain, we would all be guilty under the Terrorism Act. Is Guy suggesting the Argentinians "achieved very little"?

Then he went on to have a go at No Sweat: "Standing protesting outside Gap is a bloody strange thing to do when civilians are being killed in Afghanistan." Sorry Guy, it is a bloody good thing to do because the war in Afghanistan was a war to defend globalisation. Blair and Bush were saying, "Fuck with

our system and this is what you get!"

Two lessons here: (1) When you talk to the press, don't water down your message to appease some imaginary moderate reader. Be militant and honest and you will appeal to thousands who instinctively hate the system. (2) Always make sure you have checked with others what you're going to say in their name. I'm on the steering committee of Globalise Resistance, but whenever something like a three-page interview with a major newspaper comes our way, the SWP just treat it as their property.

Yours disgruntledly  
Jeremy

# Revolution in Brussels

Ah Brussels: home of fine chocolates, monks making beer...and now massive demonstrations, as over 100,000 protestors from all over Europe descended on the EU summit last December, held at the King of Belgium's Laeken palace in Brussels (what a great symbol of democracy and progress!).

Behind closed doors big business suits and the Eurocrats were constructing a bosses' Europe, of poverty, racism and attacks on our civil liberties.

The demonstrations from December 13-15th were organised to expose this agenda to the world.

Revo members arrived early on the morning of the 13th to meet up with other Revolution members from Germany, Austria, France, and a contingent that flew in from Sweden.

Revolution is an international group, and many of us had met before and grown used to working together – often in pretty hairy situations such as police attacks and tear gas bombardments! – at anti-capitalist demonstrations in Prague, Nice and Genoa, so there was a lot of camaraderie, hugs & kisses as old comrades and mates met up once more to take to the streets.

There were two big days of action. The

first was called by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) under the slogan "Europe is us". It was massive, with over 100,000 workers coming from all over Europe.

Many of the contingents were militant, well-organised and tooled up with heavy flag poles, flares, etc, in case the cops attacked. Dock-workers booed and threw beer cans at union bureaucrats speaking at the rally at the end – and got the support of many workers.

We all slept in a warehouse-type university building packed with demonstrators from all over Europe, and got up to face –10 Celsius temperatures for the anti-capitalist demo the next day.

25,000 people took to the streets, 5 times the number at the anti-capitalist demo of the Nice EU summit the year before.

At the end of the demo we all ended up at the convergence centre set up, where hot food and music and meetings were going on. Lines of riot cops ringed the convergence centre to stop people getting out, effectively punishing people for

demonstrating, and water-cannoning people on the streets in the subzero weather.

The next day a pacifist demo against the war and an anarchist demo marched and came together in a street party against capitalism. The police went in heavy on it as at least one bank was trashed and the summit continued as before, unchallenged.

No serious attempt was made to go to the summit, and no self-defense was organised.

Next time we need to bring the anti-capitalist spirit of confrontation and activism into the trade union movement and march to the conference centre.

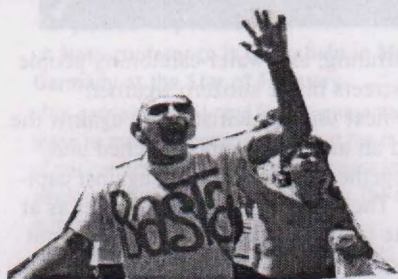




# REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

## A revolution has begun in Argentina!

Since the end of December Argentina has been rocked by huge protests that started on December 20. Millions of people have taken to the streets in protest against starvation and debt, looting the big supermarkets to feed the poverty stricken masses, setting roadblocks on fire and clashing with the police all over the country. It is a mass movement involving students, youth, workers, women, peasants and even the petit bourgeois, or middle classes. They are standing up to the government and to the international capitalist regime and yelling: '¡Basta! Basta! BASTA! (Enough! Enough! Enough!) Enough of living in poverty in a wealthy country! Enough of the corruption and bankruptcy of the politicians! Enough of working for nothing! Enough of living our lives in hock to the IMF and World Bank! WE are going to take control. You can take your debt and shove it up your ass!'



They've demonstrated with passion and strength, demanding basic necessities and rights. They refused to back down and relinquish their democratic rights when the president tried to ban demonstrations and strikes by declaring a state of emergency. This same president (Fernando de la Rúa) had to flee from the presidential palace in a helicopter the next day because he was so scared of the masses of people that had occupied the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires and demanded his resignation. That was the first of 4 presidents that have been forced to resign over the last few weeks, a couple of them lasting less than one day. No one wants to be the scapegoat for the crisis. And no one has any idea of how to get out of this blackhole, especially the orchestrators of this economic catastrophe, the IMF (international monetary fund).

### The 'INVISIBLE HAND' of the IMF

In the early 90's Argentina was the golden child of the neo-liberal agenda of the IMF. It

was held up to the rest of the third world as the example that should be followed to 'get yourself out of that debt spiral' by following the IMF/World bank dictates to the 'T'.

"Sell off all your industry, privatise all your services, and the foreign investment will flood in and relieve your debt". But it's not as easy as they say.

The previous government did everything asked of it by the IMF. It crushed inflation by pegging the peso to the dollar; allowed imports in and went for export-led growth. And it sold everything off to American, Spanish, Italian and British multinationals.

Now Argentina has an external debt (debt held by foreign capitalists) of over \$132 billion. It has an internal debt of \$150 billion. Argentina has faced 4 years of grinding recession. Across the country, unemployment stands at 18-20%. Of Argentina's 36 million population, 15 million are living on or below the poverty line. As many as 1/3 of those that are still employed have not been paid their wages for months. Government employees had their wages slashed by 13%. Wages used to be 49% of GDP (gross domestic product), now its 19%. The whole crisis was caused by the IMF's policies.

Argentina is not a poor country. It is an industrialised nation that has massive wealth in terms of oil and natural gas and other minerals. It also has just had the biggest harvest in its history. There is no sane reason why half the nation lives in poverty and people are starving on the streets.

### THE FIGHTBACK

The events over the last month did not come out of nowhere. The economy had been melting down for 4 years, but had started to plummet over the last 6 months. Cavallo, the previous finance minister, had introduced (under the instruction of the IMF) the 'zero deficit law' which effectively meant decreasing spending on health and education and a cut in the wages of workers. \$30 million was cut from public spending during a massive depression. The IMF called it a 'poverty reduction strategy' but in reality it meant cutting the wages of the poorest workers by 20%.

There is NO social welfare system in Argentina so if you don't work, you don't eat.

You can't collect the dole or any benefits. The government also started paying salaries with government bonds which ordinary people called monopoly money (patacones) because they were worthless. Workers who were getting paid in real cash (and many hadn't been paid in months) couldn't withdraw their salaries from the banks which meant a lot of people were working and yet they still couldn't eat.

In response to all this, there have been 8 general strikes in the last 2 years, 4 of them being in the last 6 months.

On Dec 13th, the organised looting of 600 supermarkets in the provinces and countryside began. Groups of poor and unemployed went to the large supermarkets and told the owners that they were taking the food. They then distributed to those who needed it.

Everyone in Argentina knew that this was the only way the poor could feed themselves. When the government announced a state of emergency, on the 19th of December, to deal with the "looting" this provoked an uprising. All over the country people came out onto the streets banging pots and pans and saying "stick the state of emergency up your arse". In the capital, Buenos Aires, they marched to the main city square, the Plaza de Mayo.

Over the next two days street battles occurred between the police and demonstrators. 31 people were shot dead by the police and hundreds arrested all over the country. In the end the President resigned.

The people do not trust the politicians - all the mainstream political parties are so discredited. The people have started organising themselves to deal with the crisis. Workplace and community based assemblies of people have been organised all over the country.

One man painted 'Assemble here on Thursday 7pm' on a wall and people congregated to discuss what they should do in the area.

In a city called Cordoba, three young men were shot in a petrol station forecourt for cheering on the protestors. They were shot by a chauffeur of an old, hated junta general, so people organised and elected one person per block to defend themselves in case the army attempted to terrorise the population like they did in the 80's.



# IN ARGENTINA!

## - Ahora o Nunca(now or never)

Workers have taken over a ceramics factory in a town called Nequen, sold off all the stock to pay their backdated wages and started to produce ceramics based on the needs of the community.

### WHAT NOW?

The Argentinean people are taking a step in the right direction by not relying on the mainstream political parties. But unless the masses of people create an alternative structure to the state, they will be the ones made to pay for the crisis. There will be a political vacuum and the capitalist and the ruling class will put forward their answer, which could include heavy state repression by the army.

In situations like this, as a



revolutionary you need to know what to do and how to go about it. A method for doing this was developed by the revolutionary Leon Trotsky which he called the 'transitional programme' which aims to link the day to day struggle to meet people needs with the goal of revolution.

So what would such a method look like in Argentina now?

Well its means fighting for the cancelling of Argentina's debt; occupation of the banks so no more money can leave the country; workers and communities to organise the distribution of food; a sliding scale of wages to beat inflation and devaluation; nationalise all industries and run them under workers control to meet the needs if the people.

Building organisations that challenge the state for control of the country and the economy is an immediate necessity, like a constituent assembly where

recallable delegates from community and workplace based assemblies can decide how to solve the crisis. Community based committees are needed to organise the distribution of food to everyone and workplace committees that produce to meet peoples needs and not for the profits of the bosses or to pay back loans to the IMF who are responsible for the crisis.

We also think that the people of Argentina need to build a democratic revolutionary workers party that would take power from the capitalists and run society for the benefit of the majority, not just the elite minority.

All the world's eyes are on Argentina and not least the eyes of all the surrounding Latin American countries, like Brazil and Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. They are all watching because they are in the midst of crises themselves and Argentina may be the spark that sets them all alight.

Argentina is not making the news because the capitalists who control the mainstream media do not want the world to know about the correct way to deal with poverty - make a revolution and fight to get rid of capitalism. But there's lots of info on the web and on the Indymedia web-sites.

The revolution has just begun. It is not over. It will ebb and flow and will not be over until one side - either the workers and the poor, or bosses - wins and makes the other side pay for the crisis.

**We know which side we'll be on.**

For more info, look at:  
[www.argentina.indymedia.org](http://www.argentina.indymedia.org)  
[www.worldrevolution.org.uk](http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk)  
[www.workerspower.com](http://www.workerspower.com)

## ARGENTINIAN SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN NEWS

by Justin, our man on the inside

The first week of the campaign over on these shores got off to a fantastic start on Thursday the 10th with an occupation of the Argentine embassy by some of our Anarchist brothers and sisters calling themselves the TPK "Those Pesky Kids" (it's a Scooby Doo thing).

The occupation started at about 10:45am and lasted for about an hour. The embassy didn't think to have some extra security during the current events in its own country, which was an obvious bonus for the TPK who had very little trouble gaining access to the building, and into the ambassadors office (which was empty). The real coup came when the Argentinean flag was lowered and replaced with the Red & Black of the Anarchist flag while a banner was opened up on the street saying "fuck the debt, cancel the state". Passers-by and workers were given leaflets and far-rero rocher chocolates (you're really spoiling us).

When the cops finally turned up (after 40 mins - nice response time guys) they were met with a small(ish) group of Anarchists who had chained themselves to the balcony with bicycle D-locks. They were promptly arrested for trespass (most were released that evening on bail). As they were led away, the embassy workers thanked the TPK for the action. It is reported that one member of the TPK was assaulted by Group 4 security personnel while in custody and had a rather "swollen and bruised" face when he appeared in court the following day.

On the Thursday evening a meeting was called by Workers Power in Conway Hall. The meeting was attended by around 80 people who listened to 2 speakers from WP and a speaker from the PTS (Argentine Trotskyist group) talk about the current state of affairs in Argentina and the reasons why its happened, with the PTS comrade giving an Argentinean perspective. The meeting was then opened up to the floor to discuss the socialist response to the events.



to bang like they're doing in Argentina. With that and Rhythms of Resistance samba band, the demo was a noisy one. Around 100 people turned up, WP and Revo being the main contingent although SWP / GR brought around 10 (not bad for a group of thousands). A few speeches were made and then the Samba Band got going making it a party-like atmosphere, which attracted loads of passers-by and attention. The cops were there too and made us stand behind a cordon like cattle but that didn't dampen our spirits. Everything finished at around 2pm with police being a bit arsey and telling us to go away. They had been caught off-guard at the embassy, so had to flex their muscles and show their athouritaaaay. **NEXT DEMO: FEB 2nd 12 noon, World Bank Offices, New Zealand House, Haymarket (nearest tube piccadilly circus or charing x).** Bring your pots and pans. If you can't get down to London, you could have a bit of fun at HSBC or Lloyds TSB banks that are profiting off of Argentinian misery.

On Saturday the 12th a demo had been called for outside the World Bank offices. People were asked to bring pots and pans



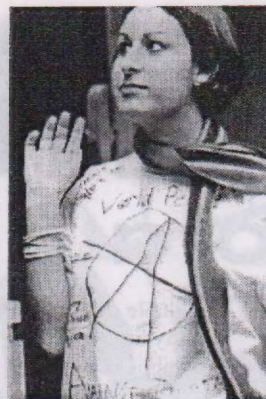
# YOUNG ANARCHIST DEMANDS FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT SCHOOL

Katie Sierra was like any other person who asked for help on the Anarchist Youth E-group. She was an Anarchist and went to a school in Sissonville, West Virginia where her views were generally tolerated. That was until September 11th. She wanted to start an Anarchist Club in her school that would take on an anti-war stance. However, despite in fact being allowed to have the club under the school's policy, she was denied her right to have it by the principal. This was when she asked for advice from the list. At the time it didn't seem like much, but then we encouraged her to argue with her principal. She did so. Soon she began receiving harassment from other members of class because of her t-shirt that read, "When I saw the dead and dying Afghan children on TV, I felt a newly recovered sense of national security. God Bless America."

As with many other students, we asked her to put across her arguments in a calm but firm way. As she wasn't from America, she also got racist abuse calling for her to

"leave the country if she didn't like it". This was nothing new to any of us on the list or anyone involved with radical politics. Things got worse when instead of responding to racist and abusive comments by other class members, the principal decide to suspend Katie "for disrupting education" even though she only wore a t-shirt. That was not an offence that could lead to suspension.

Again, she turned to the list for help and there was a unanimous view that she should get a lawyer and take the school to court over this. So having found a lawyer from the Green Party, they threatened legal action against the school and the principal backed down just before they were due to go to court. She was allowed back to school but a local right-wing newspaper had waged a viscous media campaign against her and stirred up intolerance and hatred for Anarchists. This sparked off violence in her school where [American] football players, in the year above her assaulted her on



by Xiaozhou in  
Orpington

three separate occasions. Despite everything being caught on the expensive CCTV system the school had, she was told that the attackers couldn't be identified. "To my students, the concept of anarchy is something that is evil and bad," the principal said over the issue of anger from other students towards Katie.

Due to the abuse she had received her Mum pulled her out of school, and they have decided to go elsewhere for schooling. This story highlights the amount of repression authorities are now allowed to get away with after September 11th and also of the lack of rights that students have within school. Katie's story may have reached international news, but the oppression of student rights has always been strong especially in America and has reached totalitarian levels now with Bush's war.

What else could you have done in Katie's place? Write in to revu with ideas of how to fight for your rights at school...

⊕ AGITATE ⊕ DEMONSTRATE ⊕ OCCUPY

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## ANOTHER WAR IN THE MAKING?

India and Pakistan have long been at the brink of war, but the conflict escalated after militants attacked the Indian Parliament on Dec 13/01. The dispute over Kashmir has again come to world attention. Kashmir has already been the flashpoint for 2 of the 3 India- Pakistan wars and has long been considered a thorn in the side of both countries.

India is capitalising on the 'War on Terrorism', and is using this as an excuse to flex its military muscle, which includes laying anti- personnel mines along its 1,800 mile border with Pakistan (anti-personnel landmines were outlawed under the Ottawa mine ban treaty of 1997).

Bowing to Western pressure, Pakistan is carrying out a crackdown on political activists and Islamic groups accused of being involved in terrorism. Islamabad has banned several groups, including Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, which India blames for the attack on Parliament in December.

India won its independence from British imperialist rule on 15 August 1947. With independence came the partitioning of India into Hindu-dominated India and the newly created Muslim state of Pakistan. The partition resulted in massive rioting and population flows, as Muslims and Hindus found themselves on the wrong side of the border. One million people died in the violence of partition.

The most problematic region was, and remains, Kashmir, where the majority of the population are Muslim. This is the basis of Pakistan's claim - it argues that Kashmir should have become part of Pakistan in 1947. A Line of Control, first established

in 1949, divides Kashmir into two: Indian-administered Kashmir to the east and south, and Pakistani-administered Kashmir to the north and west.

Pakistan argues that Kashmiris should be allowed to vote in a referendum on their future. India, however doesn't want international debate on the issue, arguing that the Simla Agreement (1972) provided for resolution through bilateral talks. Both India and Pakistan reject the option of Kashmiri independence. In addition to the rival claims of Delhi and Islamabad to the territory, there has been a growing separatist movement fighting against Indian rule in Kashmir since 1989.

### So what is the future for Kashmir?

This is not a war about religion. This is a war for a strategic geographical position. The Kashmir region lies in the mountains between bordering Afghanistan and China. It is important to 'national security'. This is a war to enhance both countries' regional status.

The only solution is an independent and truly free Kashmir, run by the people of Kashmir for the people of Kashmir. Both India and Pakistan are faced with the impacts of globalisation: increased debt and poverty. In India, 450 million people live below the poverty line. This ideal solution is impossible to achieve whilst the ruling class remain in power in India and Pakistan. Whilst these powers remain prepared to waste millions of dollars in defence of their respective parts of Kashmir, and exploit and ignore the interests of the people living in Kashmir, India and Pakistan, the situation in Kashmir will remain unresolved.

by Kath, our  
roving reporter



# Prince Harry has a drink & drug problem!!!

...Or so the Tory tabloids would have us believe. Why? Because during his summer holidays he drank and smoked some pot. Well, on those criteria the majority of British teenagers have a problem. And that is what the conservative moral and vocal minority would like us to believe.

Well REVOLUTION has a different point of view. In fact, on this issue we think that Harry is as normal as any other young person in the country. Alcohol and drug experimentation are an everyday part of growing up for young people up in Britain. And it's always been that way.

But the Editors of the Tabloids would like us to think different. But their panic

about Harry was not aimed at young people. It was aimed at their parents.

Charlie, god bless him, knew how to handle the situation - not! He took Harry to a drug rehabilitation clinic and tried to scare him off drug use. Then he dobbed him in to the police who threatened to lay charges "once they'd concluded their investigations". The next step was to blame the "older boys" for introducing him to such things as booze and drugs. As if all that wasn't enough, Harry will now face random drug tests at his school and will be threatened with expulsion if he is found with traces of drugs in his system.

The message to parents around the country was very simple - a heavy handed approach is the way to keep you kids clean.

Well, we want a different approach. Revolution thinks that all drugs should be legal and freely available, and people who genuinely have a drug habit should be given

medical help, not treated like criminals or stigmatised.

Secondly all schools and colleges should have drug and alcohol education programmes that teach people about the real effects of alcohol and drugs: a lecture on the evils of drugs doesn't keep people safe when they know they're only being told half the story.

We want a living income for all young people from the age of 16 so they can choose to remain living at home if they want to, or they can leave. Plus we want free education so we can choose where we want to go and not have to worry about the cost.

"Just say No!" didn't work and oppressing young people even more won't stop us from experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

To the moral authorities we say get your Hands off Harry and get your hands off the rest of us too!

# your royal HIGHness

Britain saw the whole media circus strike up again to support Prince Harry in his "Battle with Cannabis". As usual, when the royal family is bought up in my house, an argument around our dinner table started.

My family is left wing - My Mum and Dad are, although my brothers can be quite Tory if the need arises, as they see it. I, however, am the furthest left in my family. I support Cuba and Castro, Palestine and the Zapatistas, and would almost certainly vote Socialist Alliance, if only I could vote.

So, sitting around the dinner table, I said that they should charge Harry and chuck him out of Eton. My parents, however, said I shouldn't be so harsh, because I wouldn't like it if I got caught doing pot and was done for everything I had.

But then the debate heated up. I said that I wouldn't like it, but then I don't get paid stupid amounts of money each year to be a figurehead. If we are going to pay him to be a figurehead, he should do just that - not be a common criminal.

My Mum and Dad played the old "Poor Little Rich Kid" card. They said that he was born into that life, the life of constant media scrutiny. At first I dismissed this idea, but then I thought about it. He didn't ask to be put there. He didn't ask to be made third in line. He didn't ask to be watched the whole time, by all the media. But someone put him there. I began to think about who's fault it was that he was put under such pressure, just for smoking a bit of pot, and having a few beers? Its ours.... well, not you and me exactly, but society's.

We put him in that position, the position that probably killed his mother. We have caused him all this pain. Perhaps we should try and stop this poor kid from going through this pain. It's not his fault, its ours. And in years to come, I don't want to be blamed for making this kid's life a misery, or for his maybe even killing himself in the future. So it's us,

me, you and society, who need to stop this kid's suffering, in anyway possible, for his sake, and for democracy's sake.

And lets face it, it isn't their fault they're inbred snobs. Actually, out of these events, there are two things I can't forgive him or them. One- in one of Harry's drunken states, he shouted at a French Chef, calling him a 'fucking frog'. That's not on- racism of any kind is pure evil, judging a person on their skin, or their nationality is not on. It's that attitude that causes all the wars in the world today. Intolerance breeds hatred and violence, as I know from personal experience.

Two- he's spending mine, my Mum's and my Dad's money on pot. I have no problem with people buying cannabis, as far as I'm concerned it should be legalised, but not if it's with my money. I could have bought my own pot with that, cheeky shit. Anyway, I still left the conversation with the same conclusion, the Monarchy should be abolished, but I just changed my mind over who's fault it is - its society's.

Feel guilty at ruining this boy's life, or join the revolution!

YellowPagesUK  
(revo member)



Harry Pothead



# Sharon tries to provoke civil war in Palestine

by Marcus in Peckham

**S**INCE 11 SEPTEMBER, right-wing Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon has taken advantage of the US's so-called "war on terrorism" to increase the pressure on the Palestinians. He has repeatedly insisted on seven days of complete calm before any return to the negotiating table – while continuing to attack Palestinian civilians and militants. After Arafat called on all Palestinian groups to observe a cease-fire on 16 December, there was an unprecedented three weeks of calm without a single Israeli death.

However, Israel continued its attacks, and the cease-fire came to an end with new attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The reasons are simple. Sharon is not concerned with the lives of Israeli civilians – he is trying to escalate the situation to provoke a war, so that he can re-occupy the areas handed over to the PA during the "peace process". His actions have flowed from these objectives. He wants to persuade the US, Israel's biggest ally, to go along with re-occupation. He wants to pin the blame of international opinion for the collapse of the peace process onto Arafat's failure to restrain the militants. And he wants to provoke a civil war within the Palestinian territories between Arafat and the militants, giving Israel the pretext to intervene.

All of these moves will involve heavy sacrifices in terms of lives lost and enduring causes for hatred – for the Israelis as well as for the Palestinians. Sharon therefore also needs to persuade the Israeli people that violent conflict with the Palestinians is inevitable, in order to justify the sacrifices that they will need to

make. Unfortunately, the actions of the Islamist groups serve Sharon's purpose perfectly – he'll use any "evidence" he can to try to convince ordinary Israeli people that *they* and not the Israeli occupation are the target of the Palestinian struggle.

As revolutionary socialists, we believe that the only just and progressive solution to the conflict is a single bi-national state, to which the Palestinian refugees would be allowed to return, and in which Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews would be citizens with equal rights. Achieving this will involve an alliance between the national liberation struggle of the Palestinians against the Israeli state's occupation and apartheid, and the class struggle of the Israeli workers against their own ruling class – including their ruling class's oppression of the Palestinians. It will also require a struggle against national prejudices on both sides.

Such an alliance will certainly not come about while suicide bombers are

killing Israeli civilians – this will only succeed in driving Israelis into the arms of reactionaries like Sharon. But we must be clear where the real responsibility for the bloodshed lies: with an Israeli occupation that has so butchered and repressed the Palestinian people that many see no alternative to suicide bombings as a strate-



gy. Clearing the way for an alliance of progressive Arab and Jewish workers against the ruling classes of the region will require first an end to the occupation and a mass campaign to prevent the war that Sharon is planning on the Palestinian people. It is an urgent task of anti-capitalist forces in the West to help initiate and support this campaign.

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